Hamilton Lit & Theol Inst March 11th 1841.

The Society for Inquiry, to the Missionary Society at ~~Hamilton~~ Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dear Brethren.

The correspondance formerly carried on between us, and which has been for some time neglected, we are desirous of renewing if it be agreeable to yourselves. We are anxious to know the state of feeling among you in regard to the Missionary enterprize, how many of your number have their attention turned to the Missionary field, the character of the exercises at your Missionary meetings and all other matters by which we may be aided in cultivating the Missionary spirit in our own hearts

We are happy in being able to say that the state of things with us, though far from what it should be, is on the whole highly encouraging. The Eastern and Western Associations (which are branches of the general Society,) number each about thirty members and their numbers are increasing. Although none of these are strictly pledged to go on an Eastern or Western Mission, yet a portion of them are fully determined on this, all profess to have their attention directed specially to one or the other of these fields and most of them are enquiring, not, why should we go, but, why should we remain at home? And is not this, brethren, the true question for the consideration of those preparing to preach the Gospel? The church is according to the design of its foundation a vast Missionary Society for the diffusion of the Gospel throughout the world, To do this is not merely one among the many duties of the church; it is the great duty & while this is neglected the church is not fulfilling the chief design of its organization. Now the church either does not understand this to be the work assigned her, or she is most unfaithful to her own convictions of duty. Most christians ~~spirit~~ provide for the comforts and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ luxuries of life and then, if solicited, begin coolly to calculate how much they can conveniently spare for the Lord and the lost world, whereas, the question should be, not, how much must I give, but

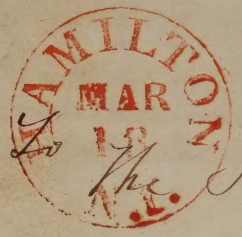
but how much may I retain in my possession? Personal sacrifice for the heathen world is rarely dreamppt of even by professing among christians

How important therefore that those who are in a great measure to determine the spirit and action of the churches, should themselves possess sufficiently enlarged views and feelings on this subject. Nothing is more certain than that he who has the spirit of Christ will if sufficiently enlightened have also the spirit of Christian Missions; for they are one and the same. The love which drew the Saviour from the bosom of the Father, will if it exist within us, draw forth our sympathies and prayers and perhaps ourselves to the ends of the earth on a similar errand of mercy. If we can hear the cry of seven hundred millions of immortal spirits come pealing up from all parts of the world, calling for the bread of life and can yet remain unmoved, how dwelleth the love of Christ in us? If we have his spirit it will constrain us to enlist all our powers in the ~~cause~~ work of saving lost souls by the great ransom which he has provided. Let us dear brethren, be faithful to the great Commission of our Lord and Saviour Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Otherwise we must feel the lashings of conscience, must hear the reproaches of lost heathen, we must incur the rebuke of our Saviour and the frown of our God. — Pray for us, brethren, and let us pray for each other that our bosoms may be inspired with more of the Missionary Spirit.

In behalf of the Society for Inquiry

Yours in the Gospel

B. F. Bronson. Cor. Sec



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To The Missionary Society
of the Theol Seminary
Princeton
N. J.